

# Federal Funding for Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How historic legislation perpetuates  
hunting and angling in Montana





# Understanding FWP's work and public expectations

- FWP unites people to help us protect the integrity of the Montana experience outdoors.
  - We perpetuate **Opportunity Outside**.
  - We focus on **Integrity**.
  - We strive toward **Balance**.
  - We bring people together (**Inclusion**).





# THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

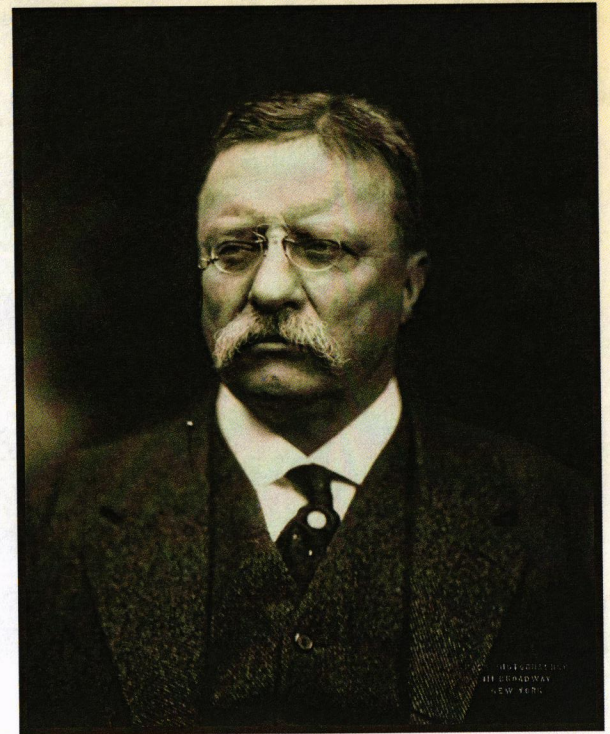




# How we got here

## The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

- President Theodore Roosevelt and George Byrd Grinnell championed the concept of ending market hunting and gave rise to the model.
- The North American Model is a dynamic set of principles, including: our fish and wildlife belong to **everyone**, need to be managed using **sound science** by professionals
- Congress, hunters, anglers created a funding source for states through their license fees and equipment purchases.





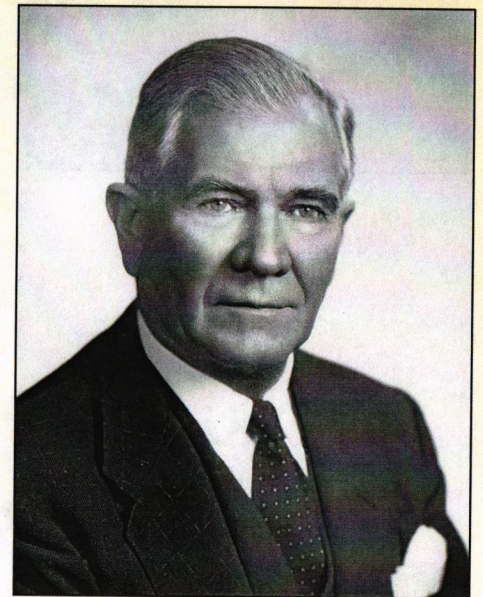
# How we got here

Hunters, anglers and target shooters stepped up to fund fish and wildlife management.

- Pittman-Robertson Act passed in 1937 with support by hunters and conservationists across the country.
- Tax on firearms and ammunition.
- Set at 11%, money is collected by the federal government and dispersed back to the states based on a formula accounting for total licenses sold and landmass.
- Montana is eligible for about \$21 million per year.



Sen. Key Pittman, D-Nevada



Rep. A. Willis Robertson, D - Virginia





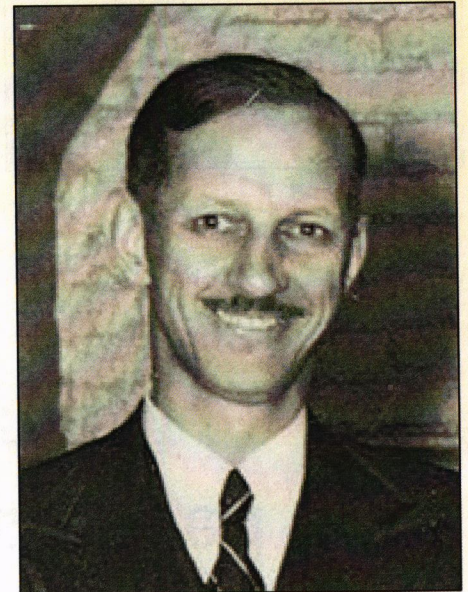
# How we got here

Hunters, anglers and target shooters stepped up to help fund fish and wildlife management.

- The Dingell-Johnson Act passed in 1950, again with the support of anglers and recreationists.
- 10 % tax on boats and fishing tackle
- Montana received about \$9 million in D-J funding in 2017.



Sen. Ed Johnson, D-Colorado



Rep. John Dingell Sr., D - Michigan





# Pittman-Robertson Act – The Significance of 29 Words

Robertson added 29 words following the enacting clause of the legislation that has protected the funding.

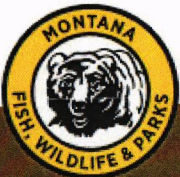
*“...and which shall include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of said State fish and game department...”*





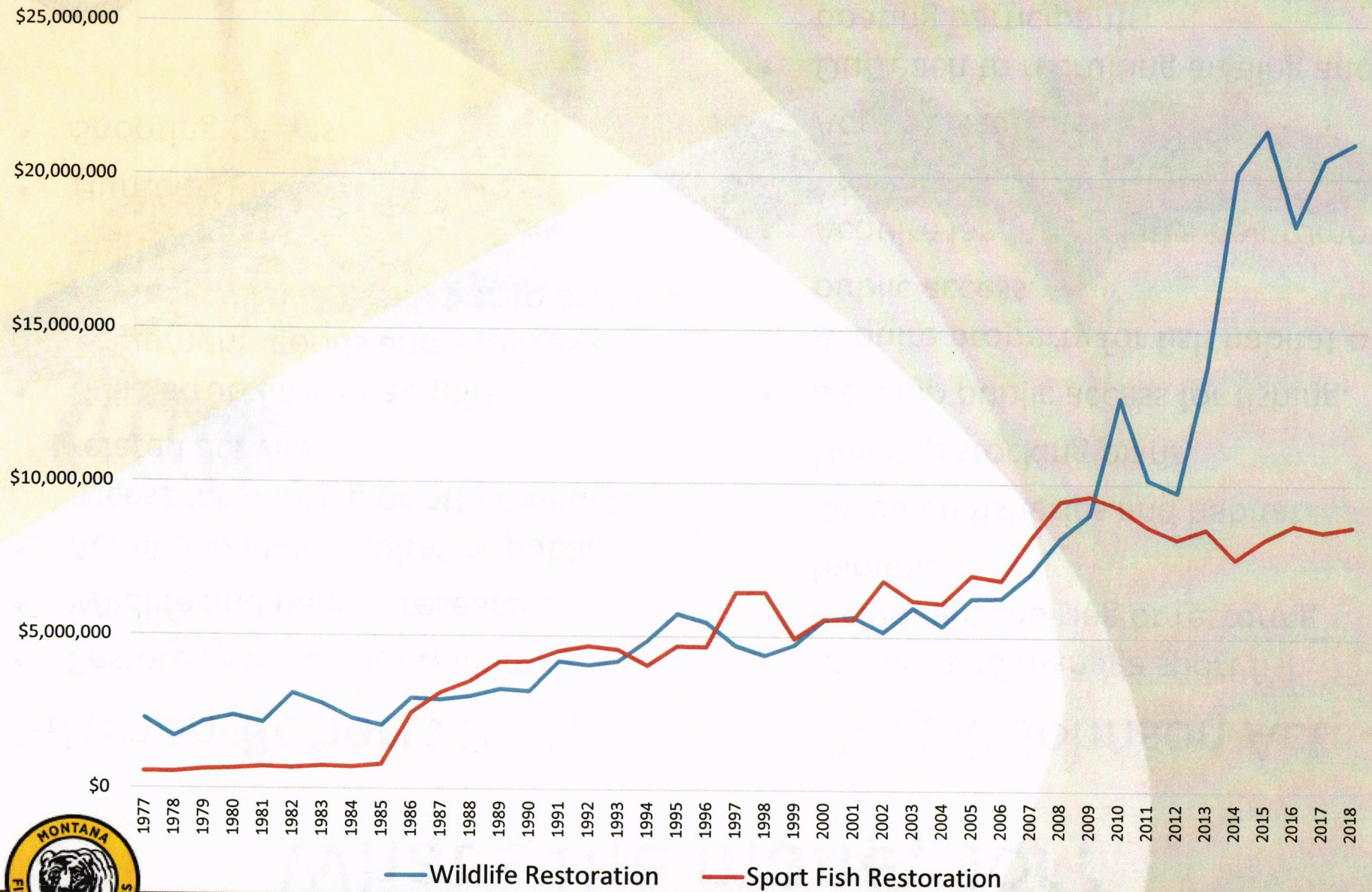
# Pittman-Robertson Act – The Significance of 29 Words

- For states to use P-R funding, they had to commit to not divert license dollars to uses other than the administration of their fish and wildlife department.
- The Montana Legislature passed legislation assenting to this requirement of P-R in 1941.
- The same language was included in the D-J Act in 1950
- Montana Legislature assented to this language in 1951





## USFWS FEDERAL AID APPORTIONMENTS TO MONTANA 1977-2018





# What's the money for?

## Pittman-Robertson Act

- Restore and manage wildlife.
- Wildlife and habitat research.
- Acquire wildlife habitat or public access for hunting or other wildlife-related activity.
- Build structures or acquire equipment, goods and services to manage wildlife habitat or to provide public access.
- Hunter education.
- Shooting ranges.

## Dingell-Johnson Act

- Restore and manage sport fish, including acquiring or restoring habitat.
- Research fisheries and habitat.
- Develop stocking plans.
- Develop public access for fishing.
- Acquire property for fish habitat or public access.
- Acquire land or facilities to promote recreational boating.
- Aquatic education.
- Outreach to recruiting angling and boating participants.





# What's the money for?

In Montana, P-R/D-J monies have gone toward projects such as:

- **Consolidate DNRC inholdings** – purchases on Sun River, Beartooth, and Blackleaf WMAs.
- **P-R/D-J Coordination Grant** that allows FWP to use federal money to cover eligible work done by staff outside of the fisheries and wildlife divisions (Enforcement, Technology, Regional Supervisors).
- **Special Projects:** FWP used its full reserve of D-J Boating Access money to kick off the statewide AIS program (\$1.7 million).





# What are the limits?

FWP is limited by P-R/D-J program constraints set by the enabling legislation and federal rule. Examples of where we've learned funding can't be used.

- Law enforcement activities.
- Public relation activities to promote FWP, other state administrative units, or the state of Montana.
- Activities conducted for the primary purpose of producing revenue.
- Activities, projects, or programs that promote or encourage opposition to the regulated taking of fish, hunting, or the trapping of wildlife.





# How it works

- Each state has a grant coordinator who works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff. Adam Brooks is FWP's federal assistance and compliance bureau chief.
- The rules governing how the grant money is spent are under Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 50.
- Each funding source has several grant areas. For FY2019, FWP is submitting 22 different P-R/D-J grant applications totaling nearly \$20 million.
- Each grant has annual reporting guidelines. These reports are also coordinated by Brooks in consultation with the divisions.
- Federal and state audits are conducted regularly. The next federal audit of FWP's P-R/D-J grants will begin in September.





# FWP grants FY 2019

- P-R Grants

- Block Management
- Lease and tax
  - Funds access leases and property tax payments
- Wildlife survey and inventory
- Administration, staff and technical assistance to other agencies and local governments
- Wildlife management grants
- Disease research
  - CWD
  - Brucellosis
- Species research
  - Moose, fisher, bighorn sheep, song birds, mountain goats and sage grouse
- Specific acquisition projects





# FWP grants FY 2019

- D-J Grants
  - Sport fish management
  - Coordination and technical assistance
  - Hatchery operation and maintenance
  - FAS operation and maintenance





# Complicated yet?

- P-R and D-J both have categories for eligible funds and program-specific requirements for each grant.
  - The majority of P-R is spent for wildlife management, but a small portion is for hunter education.
  - The majority of D-J is spent on sport fish management, but nearly 20% is exclusively for boater access and aquatic education.





**CAN WE REPLICATE THIS MODEL TO  
HELP ADDRESS RECREATION?**





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